



ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A primary unit for use in a power transfer system that has a portable electrical or electronic device, the device being separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling when the device is placed on or in proximity to the primary unit, the primary unit comprising:

a power transfer surface; and

an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively;

the primary unit being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply; and further comprising

at least one attaching element which temporarily releasably attaches the device to the primary unit in each of said first and second positions such that the device is held on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

the at least one attaching element providing a non-gravitational force, acting to resist movement of the device away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the device is attached to the primary unit in any one of said positions.

18. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein said at least one attaching element is arranged on the power transfer surface.

19. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein said at least one attaching element is adapted to attach the device to the primary unit in two or more discrete relative positions.

20. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein said at least one attaching element is adapted to attach the device to the primary unit in any position along a line extending in one translational dimension of the power transfer surface or in any position within a two-dimensional area of the power transfer surface.

21. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein said at least one attaching element comprises one or more of the following: hook-and-eye fasteners, suckers, reusable self-adhesive glue, a high stiction/friction surface, a permanent magnet or array of permanent magnets, an electromagnet or array of electromagnets, and electrostatically-charged terminals.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein said at least one attaching element comprises a spiked system ~~such as that exemplified by Stickle-Bricks®~~.

24. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein at least one said attaching element has one or more aesthetic or visual qualities to indicate to a user that the primary unit is available to supply power inductively.

25. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 24, wherein said qualities include one or more of: a colour, texture, pattern, logo design, and a material.

26. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 24, wherein at least one of said qualities changes according to an operating state of the primary unit and/or the device.

27. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein there are two or more classes of portable electrical or electronic device, and at least one said

attaching element has one or more aesthetic or visual qualities to inform a user that the primary unit, or a certain part thereof, is appropriate for supplying power inductively to a particular said class of device.

28. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 27, wherein said qualities include one or more of: a colour, texture, pattern, logo design, and a material.

29 (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 27, wherein at least one of said qualities changes according to an operating state of the primary unit and/or the device.

30. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein the power transfer surface is flat.

31. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 17, wherein the power transfer surface extends vertically when the primary unit is in use.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for transferring power to at least one portable electrical or electronic device by inductive coupling, comprising:

a primary unit having a power transfer surface and an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively;

a portable electrical or electronic device separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

the primary unit and the device being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply; and

at least one attaching element which temporarily releasably attaches the device to the primary unit in each of said first and second positions such that the device is held on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

said attaching element(s) providing a non-gravitational force, acting to resist movement of the device away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the device is attached to the primary unit in any one of said positions.

33. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein at least one said attaching element is arranged on a surface of the device, which surface is on or in proximity to the power transfer surface when the device is placed to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply.

34. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein said at least one attaching element comprise a first attaching element arranged on the device and a second attaching element arranged on the power transfer surface, the first element corresponding to the second element such that the device is attachable to the power transfer surface, but the device is not attachable to another such device, and the power transfer surface is not attachable to another such power transfer surface.

35. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein at least one said attaching element comprises a plurality of projections on one of the device and the power transfer surface, and a plurality of corresponding holes on the other.

36. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, comprising a plurality of such portable electrical or electronic devices, at least one of which is of a different type from another of the devices.

37. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, comprising a plurality of such portable electrical or electronic devices, wherein the primary unit is adapted to supply power simultaneously to at least two devices.

38. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, comprising at least two primary units and at least two portable devices, wherein a first primary unit and a first

portable device have an attaching element of a first type, and the second primary unit and the second portable device have an attaching element of a second type, such that a primary unit with an attaching element of one type cannot be attached to a portable device having attaching element of the other type.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein the device is below the power transfer surface when held on or in proximity thereto in use of the system.

41. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein the primary unit is carried in or by a movable conveyance.

42. (Previously Presented) A portable electrical or electronic device adapted to receive power from a primary unit that has a power transfer surface and an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively,

said device being separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the inductive power supply by inductive coupling when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

the device being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply,

and wherein the device comprises at least one attaching element which temporarily releasably attaches the device to the primary unit in each of said first and second positions such that the device is held on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

said attaching element(s) providing a non-gravitational force, acting to resist movement of the device away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the device is attached to the primary unit in any one of said positions.

43. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 42, wherein at least one said attaching element has one or more aesthetic or visual qualities to indicate to a user that the device is capable of receiving power inductively.

44. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 42, wherein there are one or more classes of portable electrical or electronic device, and at least one said attaching element has one or more aesthetic or visual qualities to inform a user that the device belongs to a particular said class of device.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring power to portable electrical or electronic devices by inductive coupling from a primary unit having a power transfer surface, the or each portable electrical or electronic device being separable from the primary unit and being adapted to receive power inductively from the primary unit when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface, and there being at least first and second different relative positions in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the primary unit, which method comprises:

providing a non-gravitational force, acting to resist movement of the device away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface in any one of said positions, such that the device is temporarily releasably attached to the primary unit in that position.

46. (Previously Presented) A primary unit, for use in a power transfer system that has a portable electrical or electronic device separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling when the device is placed on or in proximity to the primary unit, the primary unit comprising:

a power transfer surface; and

an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively,

the primary unit being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions, or at least first and second different relative orientations, in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply,

wherein the power transfer surface comprises a high friction surface portion which provides a force acting to resist sliding movement of the device across the power transfer surface in a direction parallel to that surface, when the device is placed in contact with the power transfer surface in any one of said positions, or in any one of said orientations, as the case may be.

47. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 46, wherein the primary unit is adapted to supply power simultaneously to at least two devices.

48. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 46, wherein the high friction surface portion has one or more aesthetic or visual qualities to indicate to a user that a primary unit is available to supply power inductively.

49. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 48, wherein said qualities include one or more of: a colour, texture, pattern, logo design, and a material.

50. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 48, wherein at least one of said qualities changes according to an operating state of the primary unit and/or the device.

51. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 16, wherein there are two or more classes of portable electrical or electronic device, and the high friction surface portion has one or more aesthetic or visual qualities to inform a user that the primary unit, or a certain part thereof, is appropriate for supplying power inductively to a particular said class of device.

52. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 51, wherein said qualities include one or more of: a colour, texture, pattern, logo design, and a material.

53. (Previously Presented) A primary unit according to claim 51, wherein at least one of said qualities changes according to an operating state of the primary unit and/or the device.

54. (Previously Presented) A system for transferring power to portable electrical or electronic devices by inductive coupling, comprising:

a primary unit having a power transfer surface and an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively; and

a portable electrical or electronic device separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

the primary unit and the device being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions, or at least first and second different relative orientations, in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply,

wherein the power transfer surface comprises a high friction surface portion which provides a force acting to resist sliding movement of the device across the power transfer surface in a direction parallel to that surface, when the device is placed in any one of said positions, or in any one of said orientations, as the case may be.

55. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 54, wherein a surface of the device also comprises a high friction surface portion, which surface portion is in contact with the high friction surface portion of the power transfer surface when the device is placed to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply.

56. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 54, comprising a plurality of such portable electrical or electronic devices, at least one of which is of a different type from another of the devices.

57. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 54, comprising at least one further primary unit of a different type from the primary unit of claim 38, wherein the or each said device is adapted to receive power from any one of the primary units.

58. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 45, wherein the primary unit is carried in or by a movable conveyance.

59. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring power to at least one portable electrical or electronic device by inductive coupling from a primary unit having a power transfer surface, the or each portable electrical or electronic device being separable from the primary unit and being adapted to receive power inductively from the primary unit when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface, and there being at least first and second different relative positions, or at least first and second different relative orientations, in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the primary unit, which method comprises:

employing a high friction surface portion of the power transfer surface to provide a force, acting to resist sliding movement of the device across the power transfer surface in a direction parallel to that surface, when the device is placed in contact with the power transfer surface in any one of said positions, or in any one of said orientations, as the case may be.

60. (Previously Presented) A primary unit, for use in a power transfer system that has a portable electrical or electronic device separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling when the device is placed on or in proximity to the primary unit, the primary unit comprising:

a power transfer surface; and

an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively,

the primary unit being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions, or at least first and second different relative orientations, in

which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the inductive power supply,

wherein the power transfer surface is generally flat, and comprises at least one surface indentation or contour which resists movement of the device across the power transfer surface in a direction parallel to that surface, when the device is placed in any one of said positions or orientations.

61. (Previously Presented) A primary unit for use in a power transfer system that has a portable electrical or electronic device, the device being separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling when the device is placed on or in proximity to the primary unit, the primary unit comprising:

a power transfer surface; and

means for supplying power inductively;

the primary unit being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the supplying means; and further comprising

connecting means for temporarily releasably attaching the device to the primary unit in each of said first and second positions such that the device is held on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

said connecting means being adapted to provide a non-gravitational force, acting to resist movement of the device away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the device is attached to the primary unit in any one of said positions.

62. (Previously Presented) A primary unit for transferring power inductively to a portable electrical or electronic device, the device being separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling, and the primary unit comprising:

an inductive power supply which supplies power inductively; and
a surface having a power transfer portion on or in proximity to which the device is placed to receive power inductively;

wherein the primary unit possesses at least one visual or tactile quality indicating where on the surface to place the portable device to receive power.

63. (Previously Presented) A primary unit as claimed in claim 62, wherein at least one said visual or tactile quality changes in use in dependence upon a state of the device and/or primary unit.

64. (Previously Presented) An item of furniture having a primary unit embedded within it, the primary unit comprising an inductive power supply adapted to transfer power inductively to a portable electrical or electronic device, the device being separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling, wherein:

the item of furniture has a surface on or in proximity to which the device is placed to receive power inductively from the primary unit; and

the item of furniture possesses at least one visual or tactile quality indicating the presence of the primary unit in the item of furniture.

65. (New) An inductive power supply unit, for supplying power inductively to one or more power-receiving devices at least one of which is a rechargeable battery or cell having a cylindrical body, the unit having a power transfer surface on which the or each power-receiving device is placed to receive power inductively and from which the or each device is separable, and the surface having at least one indentation or contour adapted to hold the battery or cell having the cylindrical body in position on the surface when placed thereon.

66. (New) An inductive power supply unit as claimed in claim 65, wherein the power transfer surface is generally flat except for said at least one indentation or contour.

67. (New) An inductive power supply unit as claimed in claim 65, wherein the inductive power supply unit and at least one said power-receiving device are adapted such that there are at least two different relative positions, or at least two different relative orientations, in which that device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the unit.

68. (New) An inductive power supply unit, for supplying power inductively to one or more power-receiving devices, the unit having a power transfer surface on which the or each power-receiving device is placed to receive power inductively and from which the or each device is separable, the power transfer surface having a bowl-shaped indentation adapted to hold at least one of the devices in position on the surface when the device is placed in the indentation.

69. (New) An inductive power supply unit as claimed in claim 68, wherein the power transfer surface is generally flat except for said indentation.

70. (New) An inductive power supply unit as claimed in claim 68, wherein the inductive power supply unit and at least one said power-receiving device are adapted such that there are at least two different relative positions, or at least two different relative orientations, in which that device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the unit.

71. (New) A system for transferring power to portable electrical or electronic devices by inductive coupling, comprising:

a primary unit having a power transfer surface and means for supplying power inductively; and

a portable electrical or electronic device separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power inductively from the supplying means when the device is placed on or in proximity to the power transfer surface,

the primary unit and the device being arranged such that there are at least first and second different relative positions, or at least first and second different relative

orientations, in which the device can be placed with respect to the power transfer surface to receive power inductively from the supplying means,

and wherein the power transfer surface is generally flat, and comprises at least one surface indentation or contour for resisting movement of the device across the power transfer surface in a direction parallel to that surface, when the device is placed in any one of said positions or orientations.